

1-8-91 Minutes

A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, was held at the Liberty Lake Park Community Building at 7:30 p.m., January 8, 1991.

Members present: Mayor G. Michael Shelton; Councilwoman Joanne A. Grahame; Councilman Payton M. Otey; Vice Mayor John M. Owen, III; Councilman Ronnie C. Rice; and Councilman James A. Vest.

Members absent: Councilman Larry D. Brookshier.

Staff present: City Manager Jack A. Gross; City Attorney W. W. Berry, IV; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher.

Mayor Shelton opened the meeting and led all present in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Shelton declared that the minutes of a regular Council meeting held on December 11, 1990, were approved as mailed.

Mayor Shelton presented the "Employee of the Year" award to Jack C. Reid, Equipment Operator III in the Public Works Department. Mr. Reid has been employed by the City since October 1973.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following public hearing notice:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Section 30-19.04B of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held in the Community Room at Liberty Lake Park at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 1991, at which time citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard regarding a request by the Board of Directors of the Avenel Foundation for tax exemption of property located in the City of Bedford.

Mayor Shelton opened the public hearing at 7:40 p.m.

The following members of the Avenel Foundation Board of Directors spoke in support of the request for tax exemption: Henry Walton; Elizabeth Berry Mosely, 1618 Westview Avenue; and Joseph Riley, 1502 Wellington Drive.

As there were no further comments, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:46 p.m.

The City Manager stated that Council has previously received a letter from the Board of Directors of The Avenel Foundation with reference to the possibility of obtaining tax exempt status for the Avenel real estate located in the City of Bedford. He stated that this matter was referred to the Finance Committee, which made a study of the request. Mr. Gross said that the City Attorney also investigated the situation. The City Manager stated that the Finance Committee made a report to Council on December 11, 1990. At that time he recommended that the request be denied as it was a marginal area as he interpreted the Code and would set an unusual precedent that theoretically any tax exempt organization could ask for similar status.

The Clerk of Council read aloud the following proposed resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of The Avenel Foundation has contacted City Council with reference to the possibility of invoking Section 30-19.04 of the Code of Virginia of 1950, as amended, to declare property located in the City of Bedford owned by The Avenel Foundation to be exempted from local real estate taxation; and

WHEREAS, Section 30-19.04 of the Code of Virginia requires that prior to consideration of such legislation, a resolution shall be adopted by the governing body of the city wherein such property is situated supporting or refusing to support such exemption; and

WHEREAS, prior to enacting this resolution a public hearing was held with respect to this request of The Avenel Foundation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Bedford that Council does not support the request of the Board of Directors of The Avenel Foundation that property located in the City of Bedford owned by The Avenel Foundation be exempted from local real estate taxation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a true copy of this resolution be forwarded to the appropriate committee of the General Assembly.

Councilwoman Grahame moved that the resolution be adopted as read. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vest. After discussion, the motion was voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

Councilwoman Grahame	aye
Councilman Otey	aye
Vice Mayor Owen	aye
Councilman Rice	aye
Councilman Vest	aye
Councilman Brookshier	absent
Mayor Shelton	aye

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m. until January 19, 1991, at 9:00 a.m.

